Report on the Administration of the Geological Department.

READ—

Letter No. 3054-2, dated 23rd September 1929, from the Director of Geology in Mysore, submitting the Administration Report of the Department of Geology for the year 1928-29.

ORDER NO. D. 5783-8—GEOL. 54-29-3, DATED 2ND DECEMBER 1929.

Recorded.

General.—The new Chemical Laboratory sanctioned last year was opened in the premises of the Departmental Offices in August 1928 and the two Assistant Chemists who were till then carrying on their work in the Laboratory of the Agricultural Department were transferred there. They now carry on the work of assay and analyses under the direct supervision of the Director and Government are glad to note that the arrangement of a separate Laboratory for the Department is working satisfactorily.

The chief work of the Department during the year was the investigation of the occurrence of minerals of economic importance with a view to the conduct of prospecting operations in promising localities.

Special Lectures.—Mr. B. Rama Rao, M.A., Sub-Assistant Geologist, gave a course of lectures in Optical Mineralogy and on ore deposits with special reference to Mysore occurrences to the final year students of the Central College. The B.Sc., students were also given field instruction in Geological Survey and in the Prospecting for Minerals in the Hole-Narsipur and Byrapur areas.

Geo-physical Prospecting for Minerals.—The Director reports that his efforts to get Companies adopting this new method of prospecting to come to Mysore to detect the occurrence of ores were not successful as the fees demanded by them were very high. It is necessary to keep in touch with developments in the adoption of this and other up-to-date methods of locating minerals with a view to our availing ourselves of them as soon as it is found feasible to do so.

Ferro-chrome experiments.—It is reported that the equipment required for conducting experiments in the manufacture of ferro-chrome has been received and that investigations into the possibilities of making this material are in progress. Government understand that Bhadravati Iron Works also have this matter under study and the Director is requested to have the experiments made in co-ordination, as far as possible, with the said Works.

Engineering and allied activities.—Technical advice was furnished by the Department in connection with the projected water reservoir at Thippagondanahalli, the Hulikere Tunnel Works of the Irwin Canal Project and the Well Boring Operations of the Department of Industries and Commerce.

Limestone for manurial and other purposes.—About 13 tons of powdered limestone were supplied to the Agricultural Department for carrying out manurial experiments, and the results are awaited. Two tons of dolomitic limestone were also supplied to the Central Industrial Workshop for use as flux.

Revision of Rules relating to Licenses and Leases.—The Director is requested to expedite the disposal of this matter.

Mining Revenue.—Government are pleased to note that the whole of the demand of Rs. 2,74,148-14-1 on account of mining revenue and connected items was collected in the year.

Mining and Prospecting.—There were 34 certificates of approval, 44 mining leases and 22 prospecting licenses current during the year as against 36, 45 and 23 respectively in the last year. The results of the working of the five gold mining companies on the Kolar Gold Fields during the year were as follows:—

	1927-28 Actuals.	1928-29 App.
Total quantity of fine gold produced..	Ozs. 381,148	Ozs. 368,602
Value	Rs. 2,16,45,597	Rs. 2,08,52,996
Royalty due	„ 11,87,880	„ 11,46,628

As regards Manganese, there were 9 leases and 11 licenses current. The total output was 29,797·25 tons and the royalty recovered was Rs. 14,306-12-0.

The market for this mineral was dull and the Director is of opinion that it is necessary to give it the benefit of a reduced railway freight. He is requested to consider this suggestion in consultation with the Agent, Mysore Railways.

There were no fresh mining leases or prospecting licenses issued for chromite. The demand for the mineral was brisk and the output was 17,314·25 tons and the royalty recovered Rs. 11,944-9-10.

One prospecting license was taken out for copper for work on two old shafts near Swonhalli, in the Nanjangud Taluk. A report was issued by the Department on the results of prospecting work done in the Copper Mines at Ingladahal in the Chitaldrug District. The existence of copper ore has been proved and full information in regard to the deposit made available to persons interested in mining propositions.

For Magnesite.—There were four leases and one license current. The total output was 1,431 tons and the removal, 1,860·25 tons as against 2,373 and 2,018·5 tons respectively in the previous year.

Under *Kaolin*, there were four leases and one license current. The output was 2,563·4 tons and the whole quantity was removed, and the royalty paid was Rs. 2,103-7-0.

Departmental Mining.—Eight thousand tons of chromite mined by departmental agency at Byrapur were sold for Rs. 1,97,000, while at the Tallur Mines near Mysore 350 tons of ore were sold for a sum of Rs. 5,950. One hundred and fifty tons of Magnesite of good quality were also mined at Tallur, and the stock has found no sale yet.

Galena and Antimony Ores have been located near Chitaldrug and the prospecting work is in progress. The authorities of the Mysore Iron Works raised 21,460 tons of iron ore from the Kemmangudi hills and 1,291 tons of silicious iron ore from deposits near Tanigebyle during the calendar year 1928 for their works for Bhadravati.

Inspections.—Almost all the current Mining and Prospecting blocks other than those on the Kolar Gold Fields were inspected by the Officers of the Department during the year.

Geological Survey and History.—Mineral Prospecting and Mining Work claimed most of the attention of the Officers of the Department and the purely Scientific could not make much progress for want of staff. The Director is requested to report the arrangements necessary for more attention being paid to this work in future.

Conclusion.—The work of the Department during the year was satisfactory and Government desire to record their appreciation of it.

N. RAMA RAO,
Secretary to Government,
Development Departments.

Declaration statements made by Partnership Firms.

READ—

Government Order No. Fl. 7563-612—G. F. 237-17-1, dated the 10th June 1918, passing orders regarding the valid acquittance to be obtained for payments made to Partnership Firms on account of articles supplied to Government Departments and among other things, directing that in the case of partnership firms having frequent transactions, they should be asked to deposit with the disburser before receiving first payment, a declaration specifying the names of the partners and countersigned by the Government Registrar of Joint Stock Companies.

2. Letter No. C. 68—29-30, dated 23rd May 1929, from the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies in Mysore, suggesting that, for reasons explained, the clause referred to in the Government Order read above may be suitably modified as indicated.